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I. Middle East

1 In reaction to what it considers advance Syrian and
2 Egyptian military preparations, Israel has initiated at least
3 a partial mobilization of its reserve forces. The recent Arab
4 successes at Rabat and the United Nations has left the Israelis
5 with a deep sense of pessimism and isolation concerning future
6 attempts to achieve a negotiated settlement. Tel Aviv's de-
7 termination not to negotiate with the PLO has hardened and Israel
8 is convinced that to do so would eventually result in the de-
9 struction of the State of Israel. Recognizing this current
10 political mood and the heightened state of Arab and Israeli
11 military readiness, there is a high risk of an outbreak of
12 hostilities, particularly on the Golan front where fighting
13 could erupt with a suddenness precluding further warning. With
14 the exception of public endorsement of the Arab position, we
15 have not noted any unusual Soviet reaction to the increased
16 tension in the Middle East. (SECRET)

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